



# South Belt-Ellington Leader

## 45 years of covering South Belt

The Voice of Community-Minded People since 1976

Thursday, July 29, 2021

Email: mynews@southbeltleader.com

www.southbeltleader.com

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### Free school supplies Aug. 7

The Houston Police Department Clear Lake Division will hold its third annual Backpacks for Kids school supply giveaway at Hunton Distribution, located at 735 FM 1959/Dixie Farm Road, Saturday, Aug. 7, from 8 a.m. to noon or until supplies run out.

### BHI holds early registration

Beverly Hills Intermediate's early registration dates are set for Aug. 3, 4 and 5 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration will take place by appointment to allow better service to families. To schedule an early registration appointment, go to www.tinyurl.com/BHlearly. Contact Jennifer Teichelman for any further questions at jteichelman@pasadenaisd.org.

### At-home vaccines offered

Harris County Public Health staff will provide vaccinations in the home. This is available to Harris County residents who are bedbound or homebound due to medical reasons, regardless of age. The staff will stay and observe clients for 15-30 minutes after vaccinations to ensure no immediate reactions occur. For information contact, HCPH at 832-927-8787.

### Blood drive at St. Frances

Save a life and give blood at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, 10727 Hartsook St. The blood drive takes place Sunday, Aug. 1, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

### Kirkwood Civic set July 29

The Kirkwood Civic Club will meet at a new location Thursday, July 29, at 7 p.m. at The Gardens, 12001 Beamer Road. Visit the Facebook page or call Erica McCrutchon at 281-989-9990 for details.

### Faith distributes backpacks

Faith Baptist Church, 9850 Mango St., is having a Backpack Give Away Drive-Thru on Saturday, Aug. 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Organizers will be giving out backpacks with school supplies, while supplies last.

### SB Church offers vaccines

Harris County Public Health officials will be at South Belt Church, 13100 Beamer Road, Tuesday Aug. 3, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. offering free COVID vaccines for ages 12 and older. They will be offering the Pfizer and J&J vaccine. No ID or insurance required. Walk-ins are welcomed.

### Knights sell food

Knights of Columbus Council 9201 will have a turkey leg and sausage-on-a-stick sale at St. Luke the Evangelist, 11011 Hall Road, Saturday, July 31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 1, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This will be a drive-thru event in the church's rear parking lot. Turkey leg and drink will be \$10; sausage-on-a-stick will be \$5; and beverages will be \$1. All proceeds will go to support KC charities.

### Active COVID cases up

As of Wednesday, July 28, there were 177 reported South Belt deaths due to COVID-19, no increase from the previous week. Reporting of deaths related to COVID-19, however, may be delayed by local officials. Of the 5,786 confirmed cases in 77089 (total population: 53,866), 121 remain active, up 81 from the previous week. To date, 68 from the ZIP code have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week. In 77075 (total population: 43,933), 62 of the 4,171 confirmed cases remain active, up 22 from the previous week. A total of 55 from the ZIP code have died, no increase from the previous week.

Of the 4,273 confirmed cases in 77034 (total population: 40,532), 61 remain active, up 32 from the previous week. To date, 54 residents from ZIP code 77034 have died from the disease, no increase from the previous week. According to Harris County Public Health officials, the vast majority of the fatalities suffered from pre-existing health issues.

Countywide, there have been 414,098 total confirmed cases. Of those, 399,840 have recovered from the disease, while 9,217 cases remain active. A total of 5,010 deaths have been reported in Harris County. Statistics are updated daily and include numbers from within the Houston city limits and throughout Harris County. To view an interactive map, visit publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Nov-el-Coronavirus.

### Beltway closures planned

At least one eastbound and one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Kirby to Bellfort daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Saturday, July 24. At least one eastbound and one westbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from SH 288 to Kirby Drive nightly from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Saturday, July 24. At least one northbound and one southbound Beltway 8 frontage road lane will be closed from Vista to SH 225 daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and nightly from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Aug. 6.

The closures are associated with the ongoing project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction.

### Gulf Freeway closures set

Two alternate northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 to SH 96 daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and nightly from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31.

The northbound exit ramp from the Gulf Freeway to NASA Bypass/NASA Road 1 will be completely closed through Friday, Dec. 31. Motorists wishing to access these intersections may exit using the exit to FM 518 and proceed on the northbound frontage road to the intersections or exit using the Bay Area Boulevard exit ramp, then make a U-turn and travel south to the NASA Bypass or FM 528. At least one northbound main lane and one southbound main lane on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from FM 518 to FM 517 in League City daily from 9 a.m. to 5 a.m. through Thursday, Sept. 30. Two alternate northbound and southbound main lanes and frontage road lanes on the Gulf Freeway will be closed from IH 610 South Loop to Broad Street nightly from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31. Both the northbound and southbound entrance and exit ramps between IH 610 South Loop and Broad Street will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. through Friday, Dec. 31.

## PISD admin building approved in fiery meeting

At its monthly meeting Tuesday, July 27, the Pasadena ISD Board of Trustees approved construction of the school district's new administration building.

The measure passed 6-1, with newly elected board member Crystal Dávila casting the lone dissenting vote.

The design and development phase of the project was previously approved this past January.

The \$26.5 million construction contract was awarded to Sterling Structures. District officials expressed surprise that the project had unexpectedly come in under budget.

To be located on Mickey Gilley Boulevard near Fairmont Parkway, the new facility will replace the school district's current headquarters on Cherrybrook Lane.

Board members said the measure was necessary because the existing administration building is aging and suffering from a number of infrastructure problems, including electrical, plumbing and roofing issues.

Pasadena ISD officials said the construction would not require a new bond proposal and the necessary funds have already been allocated from within its coffers.

The move, however, has not been without op-

position. Former Pasadena High School teacher and twice-defeated Pasadena ISD board candidate Yen Rabe led a campaign, suggesting the funds could be better spent by making improvements to the school district's older campuses and merely making renovations to the current administration building. Rabe started a petition asking the school dis-

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### South Belt visits mayor on GLO homes



The South Belt community was well represented at City Hall Monday, July 26, for the press conference of Mayor Sylvester Turner (fifth from left) on the inequities of GLO's Harvey rebuild efforts. Shown above with the mayor are, left to right, Kelli Owens, Judy Harrison, Billy Burge III, Marie Flickinger, Cecelia Ganje, Ericka McCrutchon, Kay Barbour, Sharon Turner and Council Member Dave Martin. Photo by John McCrutchon

## Mayor Turner joins GLO fight

Mayor Sylvester Turner on Monday, July 26, held a press conference, pledging his solidarity with Sagemont and other communities experiencing problems with the Texas General Land Office and its Hurricane Harvey rebuild efforts.

"The same scenario is playing out all across our city," Turner said. "All these residents deserve better. These neighborhoods deserve better. They deserve to be treated equally and with respect. Their concerns should be heard by the GLO and by HUD (the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)."

Turner was flanked onstage by *Leader* publisher Marie Flickinger, representing the Sagemont community; Mary Fontenot, representing the Pleasantville neighborhood; and Barbara Lark, representing the Studewood Heights area. Council members Dave Martin, David Robinson, Tiffany Thomas and Mike Knox were also in attendance.

The proposed construction of new houses in the South Belt community to replace those destroyed during Harvey in 2017 has been an ongoing controversy, as community leaders say legal loopholes are allowing the GLO to bypass local HOA deed restrictions.

Opponents of the construction say the replacement houses are smaller in size, have little to no

brick and do not include garages. Local leaders contend the new homes are incongruous with the surrounding residences and will have a negative impact on property values.

"In some cases, like Marie Flickinger, the homes are being rebuilt, but they do not even fit into those homes that are currently on that street, in that neighborhood," said Turner. "It totally kind of reconfigures how that community looks, and it changes the disposition of those communities."

One such reconfiguration, Turner noted, was the GLO's refusal to rebuild three-bedroom homes the same size in some communities, building two-bedroom houses instead, citing the need to save money. The GLO, however, had no qualms rebuilding four- and even seven-bedroom homes, Turner said.

"These residents are not asking for the moon," said Turner. "I don't think it's unreasonable to request that they get back at least what they had. Because when they fail to do that, it diminishes the value of their home, and in return, it also diminishes the value of their communities."

Houston's Harvey rebuild program was initially under city control, but last year, GLO Commissioner George P. Bush sent a letter to Turner

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## Law creates coastal protection district

Gov. Greg Abbott on July 19 signed into law Senate Bill 1160, which will create a Gulf Coast Protection District.

This district will be authorized to receive and issue funds for future coastal projects identified in the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study. The Coastal Texas Study, as it is commonly called, is a six-year, \$20.6 million comprehensive study led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the Texas General Land Office.

The purpose of the study is to identify feasible projects that reduce risks to public health and the economy, restore critical ecosystems and advance resiliency along the Texas coast.

SB 1160 was introduced by state Sen. Larry Taylor and co-authored by Rep. Dennis Paul, both of whom represent parts of the South Belt

community.

"Today, Gov. Abbott signed SB 1160 into law. I am proud to have sponsored it in the House. This bill creates the Gulf Coast Protection District which will be instrumental in the creation of the Coastal Barrier," Paul posted on Facebook. "I really appreciated hearing Gov. Abbott's comments on Senate Bill 1160 and the Coastal Barrier. I look forward to working with him in the future on this very important project for the people of Texas."

The bill allows for the creation of a special multicounty district that would serve as a non-federal construction cost-share entity that can sign project partnership agreements for projects listed in the Coastal Texas Study, including needed coastal improvements to increase resili-

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## Cause of Issac death still undetermined

The cause of death for tattoo artist Julian Issac, found June 19 in the 11800 block of Teaneck Drive, has yet to be determined six weeks after his death.

At press time, it remained unclear why Issac's autopsy was taking so long to perform.

Issac had made citywide headlines after initially being reported as missing.

According to police, detectives originally responded to a possible kidnapping call in the 11700 block of Teaneck Drive Tuesday, June 15. During their investigation, they canvased the area for three days and were able to recover video surveillance of a male - reported as missing - walking in the area by himself. After careful review of the case, no suspicion of a murder or a kidnapping was evident. The case was transferred to the Missing Persons Unit for a follow-up investigation that began Friday, June 18.

On the afternoon of Saturday, June 19, the body of an individual was found in the backyard of a residence at the above address. HPD Missing Persons investigators were in the neighborhood when the discovery was made.

Volunteers from Texas EquuSearch also assisted in the search for Isaac, with staging taking place at Burnett Elementary.

Police said there was no immediate signs of foul play, such as bullet casings or blood.

Prior to his death, Isaac, 29, has reportedly called his mother and told her he was being chased and that someone was going to kill him.

Isaac worked as a tattoo artist at Red Eye Gallery Tattoo Studio near downtown, and his disappearance had been widely covered by local media.

An autopsy is currently underway to determine Issac's cause of death.

## County warns of spreading Delta variant

As cases of the original COVID-19 strain continue to decline in Harris County, more cases of the Delta variant are appearing.

Harris County Public Health has more than 30 Delta variant cases. Almost all of the people contracting the original virus or the Delta variant are unvaccinated. Most of these new infections could have been prevented since the COVID-19 vaccine is very effective against the original vi-

rus and the Delta variant.

In addition, the variant is much more contagious than COVID-19, so there are likely many more undiagnosed cases in the community. Half of Harris County's residents are not vaccinated. Children under the age of 12 can't be vaccinated, so all younger children are at risk if they are around unvaccinated people.

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## HPD launches road rage initiative

The Houston Police Department recently launched an initiative aimed at curbing road rage incidents in the city.

Dubbed the Safe Roadways Initiative, the new program is a joint effort between HPD and other area law enforcement agencies, including the Harris County Sheriff's Office and the Texas Department of Public Safety. The Harris County Precinct 2 and Precinct 8 constable offices are also participating.

Road rage has become a growing problem, with more than 1,500 incidents already being reported this year - up 30 percent from three years ago. Roughly 100 of the cases involved guns.

"It's become such a problem," said HPD Executive Assistant Chief Larry Satterwhite at a re-

cent press conference.

One of the more recent road rage incidents involved the death of a 17-year-old who was leaving an Astros game with his father.

Components of the Safe Roadways Initiative include education, messaging, enforcement and investigation.

HPD is going to increase their police presence during peak hours on the city's busiest highways, using regional resources outside the department, and begin proactively looking for aggressive drivers. Patrol officers will be in marked and un-

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## Kendrick selected PISD president

Marshall Kendrick was recently selected to serve as president of the Pasadena ISD Board of Trustees.

A longtime board member, Kendrick was first elected in 1989.

The new president was chosen by his fellow trustees. He will serve in the position for the duration of the 2021-2022



Marshall Kendrick

school year. Kendrick's current term will expire in 2023.

For the 2021-2022 school year, Vickie Morgan will serve as vice president; Kenny Fernandez as secretary; Nelda Sullivan as assistant secretary; and Crystal Dávila, Paola Fusilier and Casey D. Phelan will all serve as members.

Kendrick is the retired director and general manager of Maleic Anhydride Business for Bayer Corporation.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches. He and wife

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## County reaches 5,000 COVID-19 deaths

Harris County Public Health announced on Sunday, July 25, the county had surpassed 5,000 COVID-19 deaths. The milestone had been met the previous day.

The announcement, made via Twitter, also reported there were currently 413,022 confirmed cases of the virus and that 348,654 residents had been fully vaccinated by the county.

Earlier in the week, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo on Thursday raised the county's COVID-19 threat level amid a surge in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations fueled by the spread of the Delta variant and a slowdown in vaccinations.

"Basically what we have is the deadly tension between the spread of the variant and the vaccina-

tion rate," Hidalgo said.

The threat level was raised from yellow, or moderate, to orange, or significant, in the midst of spiking cases during a fourth wave of the pandemic.

Hidalgo attributed much of the county's low vaccination rate on what she called "a pandemic of misinformation" spreading on social media.

Given the up-tick in cases, Hidalgo urged all residents to wear masks again when in public - even those who have been vaccinated.

"I know they're inconvenient," Hidalgo said. "I don't like wearing masks either, but until we get the numbers back down, let's all wear our masks"

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## Governor signs Taylor, Paul bill



Gov. Greg Abbott (seated, center) recently signed a bill into law creating a Gulf Coast Protection District. The bill was co-authored by South Belt elected officials Rep. Dennis Paul (front row, second from left) and Sen. Larry Taylor (front row, right). Pictured above with the trio at the signing are, left to right, (front row) Rep. Ed Thompson; (back row) Sally Bakko, GCPD director, City of Galveston director of Policy and Government Relations; Byron Williams, deputy district engineer USACE Galveston; Maj. Ian O'Sullivan, USACE Galveston deputy commander; Michele Bechtel, GCPD director, mayor of Morgan's Point; and David Robinson, Houston City Council Member.

# PISD admin building approved in fiery meeting

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trict to rescind its decision to construct the new facility, even writing a letter to the editor that was published in the Jan. 21 edition of the *Leader*. Rabe went on to organize a slate of three candidates in the May school board election that made the issue its primary focus during the 2021 campaign. While two of the candidates – Rabe and Al Bledsoe – were unsuccessful in their bids for office, Dávila, the third candidate on the slate, was victorious, narrowly defeating longtime incumbent Mariselle Quijano, who challenged the results of the hotly contested election.

The incumbents, however, still maintain a majority on the board and control its decision-making process. This point was not lost on Pasadena ISD School Board Vice President Vickie Morgan. “This was voted on,” Morgan said, noting that two board members on stage had campaigned against the measure. “This was accepted by this board, and there’s nothing that can be done about it.”

Morgan’s comments solicited a response from both Dávila and fellow freshman board member Paola Fusilier. “I am not against the admin building. I just want to know how we take priorities when it comes to which buildings we are going to fix,” Dávila said. “As a teacher, our learning conditions are reflected in our working conditions.”

A similar position was shared by Fusilier, who sided with the majority. “I never stated that I was against the administration building,” Fusilier said. “I love this district. My husband worked for the district. My kids are part of this district, and I care about moving the district forward. And if this is going to help, and this is going to increase pride in the district, then I want that as well.”

Longtime Pasadena ISD board member Nelda Sullivan explained to those in attendance that campus improvements are prioritized by the school district’s Future Facilities Committee, which then works with superintendent before gaining approval by the board. “Nothing is done without a thorough investigation and an assessment of what is the most needed project to make our district the safest, the most convenient and the most comfortable for student learning,” Sullivan

said. “That’s the object of the entire process of school buildings – that they’re safe and that they make learning very easy for our students, and that they’re buildings our students and staff can take pride in.”

Seven public speakers addressed the matter, with five being in favor of the new building and two opposing it, a noticeable change from previous meetings that attracted more critics than supporters. While Rabe was in attendance, she opted to not speak.

Those in opposition complained of excessive costs; the distance of the new facility from residents on the north side of the district, who disproportionately do not own cars; and the safety of the neighborhood that surrounds the existing administration building, as the Pasadena ISD Police Department vehicles currently parked at the facility serve as a crime deterrent.

Supporters of the new building were primarily district employees and engineers, who spoke on the dire physical need for a new facility. “This administration is our heart, and our heart is on life support. It’s failing. We need a new heart. Everyone in this building are the magic makers. We are the wizard behind the curtain. We are the wish granters. We head the curriculum, the special education program, the recruiting, the hiring, the training. So much magic happens in this building, and it’s falling apart around us. For us to keep competing, for us to give our children the quality education, with the outstanding health care, the mental health, the education, we focus on the whole child. Everyone collaborates together to be the best, so our kids can be the best. And we can’t do it in rubble. We need a building that is commensurate to what we want to produce. We want to produce the best. Our kids deserve the best,” said Pasadena ISD staff member April Weiseld. “Not everyone has a negative take on this. Most of my peers feel the same way I do.”

**Current problems**  
The Pasadena ISD Administration Building at 1515 Cherry Brook Lane has seen better days, according to Art Del Barrio, PISD director of communication. Director of Maintenance Tom Douglas says the building is plagued with an array of issues from the foundation to the roof – and just about every-

thing in between. “This building used to be an old mall/shopping center,” said Douglas. “The foundation was built with a perimeter and a centered walkway, the rest was dirt. As development space was purchased, individual foundations were poured into each store space.” Douglas added that there is no consistency in the thickness of the foundation throughout the building. In some spots the foundation is only four inches thick, in others six inches. Further, the foundation is settling throughout the building, causing major leveling issues, shifts in concrete and cracked walls.

Linda Fletcher, director of fine arts, arrived at work one day and the foundation had shifted so much her desk lifted up off the ground and broke off the wall to which it was attached. Further, since each concrete pour was different, there was no set standard. Some of the concrete slabs do not have moisture barriers, which allows moisture to come up through the concrete. Since Hurricane Harvey, the water table (the upper surface of the zone of saturation) under the building has risen – causing more moisture to come up in certain parts of the building that continues to cause shifting, flooring damage and stench.

In the Food Service Department, 1- to 4-inch gaps between the floor and the walls separating offices causes privacy issues. “We can literally see into each other’s offices,” said Director of Child Nutrition Mary Harryman. **Electrical issues**  
The age of the administration building really shows when dealing with electricity. Electrical components that distribute power to the building were made before 1986. These are parts that are no longer made or no longer kept in stock. The district has had to rely on used parts at times to keep some components running. While it may not happen often, when a part does break, sometimes it can take weeks or months to locate a replacement part.

Further, all the electrical breaker boxes are maxed out. When new offices are added or remodeling takes place, expansions to breakers in breaker boxes that feed power are no longer possible. **HVAC**  
The chill water system that

cools the building is designed for large open areas, as the building used to be a shopping mall.

To this day, the entire building is either too hot or too cold, officials said.

“Sometimes the temperature inside the building is as low as 58 degrees and other days it’s in the 80s,” said Reesha Brown, communication coordinator.

The antiquated system, coupled with new ductwork, has created a need for more balanced airflow.

If a new system were to be purchased, it would be necessary to hire mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineers to design the new system.

**Plumbing**  
The plumbing in the building is over 40 years old. Shortly after Hurricane Harvey, there was a terrible stench in some of the Human Resource offices. Maintenance crews discovered a sewage line underneath the building had burst due to age and settling. Crews came in and worked until the repairs were completed. In the meantime, staff were displaced while the repairs were taking place.

**Fire suppression system**  
While the current fire sup-

pression system still works, it was installed in 1986 and parts for the system are no longer manufactured.

“A few years back a circuit board went out on the system,” said Douglas. “It took several months to locate an identical board, have it shipped and installed.”

Douglas added that it is highly likely that if the system goes out again, an entire new system will have to be installed, which will incur the cost of engineering studies necessary to replace the system.

**Roof**  
Roof leaks are not uncommon. With shifts in the foundation and walls adjusting as well, the roof continues to stretch and adapt causing ponding and holes in the vinyl roofing, allowing water to enter the building. After years of patchwork and repairs, in order to replace the roof properly, the building would require a complete structural evaluation.

**Advantages**  
**Centralized location**  
Dobie High School, which is the furthest high school from the Administration Building, is currently more than 12 miles away from the central office.

## Mayor Turner joins GLO fight

Continued from Page 1 saying he “can no longer allow the city to hinder the progress of recovery efforts for Houston residents.”

No longer in control of the process, Turner is now calling on HUD officials to ramp up GLO oversight efforts.

“I am asking that HUD and the other federal officials responsible for overseeing the GLO take note that this decision to downsize homes for mostly senior homeowners in many communities, many predominantly minority communities, is a decision that

disproportionately impacts individuals protected under the Fair Housing Act,” said Turner. “HUD has been absent for too long in this process in overseeing this program. After a hiatus of nearly four years, we are asking HUD to step up and properly oversee the GLO disaster recovery program so that Houston’s most vulnerable citizens, our senior citizens are not left behind, and so that protected classes under the Fair Housing Act are not disproportionately disadvantaged.”

For residents who lost everything during Harvey to have

## Protection of the community by Sheriff Ed Gonzalez

At the Sheriff’s Office, we know it’s not enough to have strong policies in place. Building an agency-wide culture that supports proven peer intervention strategies is key to preventing harm, promoting deputy wellness, and maintaining the public’s trust.

Our deputies and detention officers swore an oath to protect our communities and those in our custody – they show courage every shift and willingly put themselves in danger to keep others safe. Still, confronting their teammates and supervisors about something they did wrong can

be difficult. Policing has a hierarchical structure with a high value on being loyal to fellow brothers and sisters in blue.

In late June, we implemented a training program called Active Bystanderism for Law Enforcement, or ABLE, that equips our frontline personnel with practical skills and tactics to prevent misconduct, reduce mistakes, and enhance deputy health and wellness. It was designed by policing researchers at Georgetown University Law School.

This meaningful training shows our deputies and those on the frontlines inside our jail how to intervene consistently, safely, and effectively. Our teammates also learn to overcome inhibitors, such as apprehension to address a mistake made by a supervisor, that may keep them from becoming active bystanders.

The intervention can span from seeking help for a fellow deputy who seems angry or depressed to stopping a deputy in the field from using excessive force.

As an agency, we’ve made significant strides to advance our mission and fulfill our core values through dedicated training, collaborative partnerships, and holistic programs. These critical and necessary steps at all levels within the agency – with strong support from the highest levels of our command staff – enhance the importance of mental health among our ranks and improve our response to our community’s public safety needs. To learn more about ABLE and our commitment to the 10 ABLE standards, go to <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/innovative-policing-program/active-bystanderism-for-law-enforcement/able-program-standards/>.

## Leader checks out social media

By Natalie Abarca

A member of *The Official South Belt & Sagemont Area Crime Alert* Facebook page posted an update that Houston police are asking for the public’s assistance in locating a driver and vehicle in connection to the death of a man found at 8603 Alameda Genoa Road about 11:30 p.m. July 3. The wanted vehicle is a 2010 white Nissan Altima, driven by an unknown suspect. The victim, Gabriel Rodriguez, 32, was pronounced deceased at the scene. HPD Homicide Division Detectives J. Brown and K. Fregia reported: HPD patrol officers responded to a call from a passing motorist of a person lying in the driveway of a cemetery at the above

address. Officers arrived and found the victim, later identified as Mr. Rodriguez, near the entrance to a gate. He appeared to have suffered blunt force trauma. Houston Fire Department paramedics pronounced Rodriguez deceased. Further investigation revealed Rodriguez was apparently intoxicated and seen lying in a parking lot of a nearby business. He then walked down the street and eventually was seen lying in the driveway of the cemetery with headphones on. At some point, Rodriguez was run over by a white Nissan Altima, whose driver fled the scene without stopping to render aid. Anyone with information on the vehicle or driver wanted for questioning in this

incident is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

A member of *People of Sagemont* posted that registration for the 2021 Fall Ball season is now open. Registration is open until Aug. 27. Registration fees are \$85 registration plus \$50 raffle until Aug. 22 and \$100 registration plus \$50 raffle for registration Aug. 23 – 27. Coaches are always needed and volunteers are encouraged to sign up. There will be a coaches’ meeting and a division director to answer questions throughout the season.

For additional information, visit <https://www.southbelt11.org/Default.aspx?tabid=936764>.

## Local library events set

In case of storms or adverse weather, refer to library website for details.

### Bracewell Branch Library

**For the Summer Reading Program and children’s services, visit [houstonlibrary.org/fun](http://houstonlibrary.org/fun).**  
Bracewell Library, 9002 Kingspoint, is open, but there are no in-person events. Customers are encouraged to come into the building to browse the collection, check-out and return materials, use the library’s computers and Wi-Fi, and check out their own holds. In addition, customers may continue to schedule appointments and have curbside delivery of their items. For information, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/>. For online learning, visit <https://houstonlibrary.org/online-learning-7556> or call 832-393-2580. Hours are: Mondays, noon – 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, noon – 5 p.m.; Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Thursdays, noon – 5 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Bracewell HPL To Go curbside service is available by appointment

Contactless curbside services, known as HPL To Go, are available by appointment. For questions, call circulation at 832-393-2222. To use HPL To Go:  
1. Place a hold through the online catalog or by phone.  
2. Receive email or phone call of notification prior to scheduling a time for pickup.  
3. Upon arrival, park and stay in the vehicle and call to notify staff of arrival.  
4. Have MY Link card number and PIN ready.

### Book drop

The book drop is open. Library materials can be returned. The library continues to provide online resources to enjoy the library virtually. Large items such as FLIP kits or laptops should not be placed in the book drop, but taken inside.

### Additional resources

The Houston Public Library has electronic resources, books, audiobooks, databases for research, tutoring, language learning, education and parent information for Texas residents with a library card. To get a card, visit the home page at [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org) under Here’s What’s Happening. Click on Free Resources for All to access digital resources and access a link for a temporary card.

Under Here’s What’s Happening, the card titled Online Resources for Kids accesses a Virtual Storytime provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. The archived storytimes are on Facebook under Houston Public Library Virtual Storytimes. Another virtual program is Craft. Houston Public Library’s free online resources and digital services are available 24/7 with a MY Link Library Card at [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org), including e-books and e-audiobooks, streaming TV, movie and music services, online classes and tutoring and databases. Until further notice, only electronic items (i.e. e-books, e-audio books, etc.) are eligible for holds and check-out. HPL has a collection of free e-books and audio books. Visit the catalog for previously requested hold selection may be in a digital format. Instructions on downloading these books are on the site.

All overdue fines will be waived through Dec. 31, retroactive to March 14, 2020. While the Bracewell Branch Library remains closed, Wi-Fi service is still available by coming to the library standing/sitting within six feet of the building. A password is not needed. Go to Settings, then Network and Internet, Wi-Fi and connect to HPL – Public. For more information, visit [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org) to chat with a librarian 24/7, or to send questions through HPL’s email reference.

### Parker Williams Library

Parker Williams Library has now officially reopened its doors, subject to limited capacity. See the website at <https://www.hcpl.net/reopening> for information. The library will follow state and county guidelines for mask and social distancing.

Social media include Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary. The book drop is open.  
**Parker Williams “No-Contact Curbside Holds Pick-Up”**  
– After receiving notification that holds are ready for pickup, call 832-927-7870.  
– Have a library card number and PIN handy.  
– A pickup time and instructions will be given.  
– Upon arriving at the library, follow the instructions given.  
– Be prepared to show a library card or other form of ID for verification.  
Curbside hours are: Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/parker-williams-branch-library> for details.

### Online services

– Use HCPL Wi-Fi service with HCPL’s drive-up Wi-Fi.  
– Download e-books and audiobooks, stream movies, research and learn at [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net).  
– Attend an HCPL program or story time online through Facebook or YouTube.  
– Check an account to renew loans or request books, e-books, comics or graphic novels.  
– Stream classic films, indie cinema and award-winning documentaries on Kanopy.  
– Listen to audiobooks through RBDigital or OverDrive.  
– Read along and play with picture books on TumbleBooks.

Don’t have an HCPL library card? Instant access can be obtained to all HCPL’s digital materials and research tools with an iKnow Digital Access Card. Apply at <https://www.hcpl.net/services/iknow-card> for a HCPL card. For details, visit <https://www.hcpl.net>.

Monday, Aug. 2, 1 p.m. Mythical Mondays. Join Jasmine Washington as she guides through facts, lingo and survival tips for mythological creatures and be one step closer to becoming a mythological creature master. The program is found at Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, Aug. 3, 10:30 a.m. Virtual Story Time. Join John Harbaugh for stories and songs for families with children of all ages on Facebook Live. Visit Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, Aug. 3, noon. Drawing with Ariel Perez for virtual fun and easy cartoon drawings featuring various doodles, numbers and letters. This video is featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Tuesday, Aug. 3, 3 p.m. Enjoy the Outdoors: Stargazing apps. Join John Harbaugh to check out some popular apps available to use when looking at the stars. From constellations to planets, discover the app best fit for one’s curiosity. This program can be found at Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, Aug. 4, 11 a.m. Bilingual Vietnamese Storytime. Enjoy story time in English and Vietnamese with Kathy Pham and have fun singing, reading and learning in both languages. This video is available on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, Aug. 4, 3 p.m. Pets of PW: Dottie and Minnie. Get to know the beloved pets of those that work at the local Parker Williams Branch. The dog days of summer are here. Learn about John Harbaugh’s dynamic doggie duo. This video will be featured on Facebook.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary and Instagram.com/ParkerWilliamsLibrary.

Wednesday, Aug. 4, 6:30 p.m. Finding Lasting Happiness Through Meditation. Join Daya Sharma for this engaging program. Register at <https://www.hcpl.net/events/45553> for an invitation to this online event.

## South Belt-Ellington Leader

*The Voice of Community-Minded People*

**11555 Beamer      281-481-5656**  
E-mail: [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com)  
*Davy & Marie Flickinger, owners*

# Backpacks for KIDS

HPD CLEAR LAKE DIVISION SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAY

SPONSORED BY  
**Hunton**

## The Houston Police Department, Clear Lake Division, is hosting its 3rd Annual School Supply Giveaway!

**AUGUST**  
SATURDAY  
**7**

**Our goal is to help lessen the financial burden on families by providing school supplies for the children. Come on out with the family to get school supplies and enjoy interacting with community partners, such as HPD, NASA, and more. This event will be held at Hunton Distribution located at 735 FM 1959 (Dixie Farm Rd.) Houston, TX.**

Supplies are limited. Children receiving backpacks must be present.

**8 A.M. - 12 P.M.**  
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

**735 FM 1959 (Dixie Farm Rd.)  
Houston, TX 77034**

HPD Clear Lake Division  
2855 Bay Area Blvd  
Houston, TX 77058

Phone: 832-395-1777  
Fax: 832-395-1773  
[Richard.Buitron@HoustonPolice.org](mailto:Richard.Buitron@HoustonPolice.org)

### ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

Catholic Church  
Rev. Douglas J. Guthrie, Pastor  
Rev. Kingsley Nwoko, Parochial Vicar  
11011 Hall Rd.  
(between Beamer & Blackhawk)  
[www.stlukesatholic.com](http://www.stlukesatholic.com)

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**  
(Modified during COVID-19)

Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*
Sunday	1 p.m. Misa en Español*

\*Also Available on Facebook Live

Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday	7 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)  
Thursday 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.      Saturday 4 to 5 p.m.

Parish Office: 281-481-6816  
Children’s Faith Formation: 281-481-4251  
Adult Faith Formation: 713-538-2862

*All are welcome to come to worship and serve the Lord in a spirit of love, sharing, and hope.*

### New Covenant Christian Church

Day Care Christian Based Child Care

*Now Enrolling*

New Covenant Christian Church provides Christian based child care for the local community. Director Nedra Jackson and her staff are here to take perfect care of your children while you work.

**281.481.2003**  
[www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com](http://www.newcovenantchristianchurchhouston.com)  
10603 Blackhawk Blvd. Houston, TX 77089  
Blackhawk @ Kirkfair

## Montes motivates Hurtado to never give up



South Houston High School's Shining Star Andres Hurtado (right) is shown with distinguished educator Denise Montes who teaches 10th- and 12th-grade chemistry. Commenting on his teacher, Hurtado said, "I chose Mrs. Montes as my distinguished educator because she has been the most influential teacher I've had throughout my academic career. Mrs. Montes was the teacher that got me into the liking of the STEM field. She has also supported me in my outside activities such as soccer and band. She taught me the road to success isn't easy but in order to persevere you must add a lot of energy because the more energy it has the harder it is to break. Thus, this is why I chose Mrs. Montes to be my distinguished educator." Hurtado has shown leadership as boys

varsity soccer captain. Extracurricular activities for Hurtado include soccer. Community service activities for Hurtado included Grace Food Bank. "After high school, I plan on attending University of Houston for mechanical engineering," Hurtado said. *The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the top South Houston High School students. The information and photos were submitted by Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running the Shining Stars from Dobie, Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical and Pasadena Memorial high schools.*

## Taylor, Paul bill creates protective district

**Continued from Page 1** "The Texas coast remains one of our nation's largest economic drivers, generating billions in tax revenue each year while also housing thousands of species of wildlife and delicate ecosystems. Protecting the coast remains a top priority for us at the GLO. I applaud the legislature for advancing this bill, and I look forward to our continued work together to ensure Texans have a resilient coast for generations to come." Abbott recently appointed longtime South Belt resident Bob Mitchell, who serves as president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, to the board of directors of the newly created Gulf Coast Protection District. (See related story in the July 22 edition.)

Continued from Page 1 "The signing of this bill greatly improves Texas' ability to defend itself against future hurricane events and advance much-needed coastal improvement projects," said Deputy Land Commissioner Mark Havens. "The Texas coast remains one of our nation's largest economic drivers, generating billions in tax revenue each year while also housing thousands of species of wildlife and delicate ecosystems. Protecting the coast remains a top priority for us at the GLO. I applaud the legislature for advancing this

bill, and I look forward to our continued work together to ensure Texans have a resilient coast for generations to come." Abbott recently appointed longtime South Belt resident Bob Mitchell, who serves as president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, to the board of directors of the newly created Gulf Coast Protection District. (See related story in the July 22 edition.)

is concluding the feasibility phase and is on track to deliver a signed USACE Engineers Chief's Report to Congress in September of 2021. More information on the Coastal Texas Study can be found at [www.coastalstudies.texas.gov](http://www.coastalstudies.texas.gov). Abbott said protecting the Gulf Coast is critical for the whole country. "Strengthening our coastal region is vital to Texas, as well as to the entire nation."

## Parker paves road to success for Nguyen

J. Frank Dobie High School's Shining Star Henry Nguyen (below, right) is shown with distinguished educator Patricia Parker who teaches kindergarten. Commenting on his teacher, Nguyen said, "Allowing me to read out loud in front of first-graders to practice my skills, holding on to my perfect attendance certificate for five years, seeing my progress grow, and asking her daughter (who's my teacher currently) about how her former students (me) were doing a decade later. These are testaments that show me just how much I owe to my kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Parker. Her kindness, compassion, and ability to bring out one's potential resonate so deeply within me, it's like I never left her classroom. She set me up for success at such an early age. All I can do is hope that I make her proud." Nguyen has shown leadership as president of Freshman Division (HOSA), team leader (VEYM), skit director (VEYM), host and writer (upcoming YouTube channel), co-founder (temporary UNICEF chapter) and head of policy and training (altar servers). Extracurricular activities for

Nguyen include HOSA (for prospective medical students), FIRST Robotics Competition, Key Club and National Honor Society. Community service activities for Nguyen included Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement, altar servers ministry, current applicant to Rice (REU) and 7-Cups (online service to help vent to anonymous strangers). "After high school, I hope to attend college to earn a bachelor's in cognitive science, or a major somewhere along those lines, with possibly a minor in philosophy. Then, I plan to go to medical school (possibly MD/Ph.D), possibly in psychiatry or neurosurgery," Nguyen said. *The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor. The Shining Stars represent the top J. Frank Dobie High School students. The information and photos were submitted by Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running the Shining Stars from South Houston, Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical and Pasadena Memorial high schools.*



## Delta variant warning

**Continued from Page 1** Harris County Public Health strongly recommends everyone over the age of 12 be vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccines are free at all HCPH sites throughout Harris County, and no appointment is needed. To find a location, visit [publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov](http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov). Should one prefer to make an appointment, go to [vacstrac.hctx.net](http://vacstrac.hctx.net) or call 832-927-8787.

Parents with children under 12 should get them tested frequently to see if they have the virus. Four out of 10 people infected with COVID-19 don't have symptoms, so parents may not know their children are sick with the virus. If they are infected, parents can monitor them to make sure they don't develop serious symptoms and keep them isolated, so they don't infect others.

Parents must accompany their children, ages 12-17, to be vaccinated or children must bring a consent form signed by their parent or guardian. Consent forms are at [vacstrac.hctx.net](http://vacstrac.hctx.net). Children ages 12 to 17 are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. Adults over the age of 17 can choose from 3 vaccines: the one-dose Johnson & Johnson and the two-dose Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

COVID-19 testing is still available throughout Harris County. Testing is quick and free at multiple HCPH sites, and results come back within 48 hours. No appointments are needed. For a list of locations, visit [publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Re-sources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Testing-Information](http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Re-sources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Testing-Information) or call 832-927-7575.

## Home Grown lecture set Aug. 5

The Home Grown lecture "Cooking Safely Outdoors," will be presented at 10 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 5, by Shannon Dietz, Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources. This is a free virtual lecture and one can register at <https://homegrown2021Q3.eventbrite.com/>.

# AVAILABLE NOW:

## Houston Methodist Virtual Urgent Care



**Our providers are available 24/7 following your COVID-19 diagnosis.**

Whether you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or want to avoid spreading or catching germs, you can connect with a board-certified provider via video visit wherever you are — no appointment needed. The provider will be able to advise you about your diagnosis and can guide you on appropriate treatments to help you in your journey to recovery.

Virtual Urgent Care is available through the MyMethodist app. Download it today.

If you are unable to cover the \$20 cost of your visit, please contact 281.524.4687 for financial assistance.

[houstonmethodist.org/virtual-care](http://houstonmethodist.org/virtual-care)



## Dryden honors the support from Maxwell

Pasadena Memorial High School's Shining Star Megan Dryden (below, left) is shown with distinguished educator Pamela Maxwell who teaches ninth-, 11th- and 12th-grade world geography and AVID.

Commenting on her teacher, Dryden said, "Ms. Maxwell has such a heart for her students. She encourages us to pursue even our wildest aspirations, and she genuinely believes we can make it there. She emphasizes that we are the up-and-coming generation of leaders and that we can start making change now as young adults. A while back, one of my classmates discussed in homeroom how they wanted something to change in Pasadena, and Ms. Maxwell, told us that there was no reason to wait. She has never dampened our dreams, only pushed us toward them, and she has a passion to see her students succeed."

Dryden has shown leadership as Treasurer of National Honor Society and Campus Liaison of Bay Area Council

On Drugs and Alcohol Youth Advisory Council. Extracurricular activities for Dryden include National Honor Society and Youth Advisory Council.

Community service activities for Dryden included Teague Elementary tutoring and Pasadena Animal Shelter. "After high school, I plan to attend Oral Roberts University for undergrad in cinema and television and earn MBA and/or JD after ORU," Dryden said.

*The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor.*

*The Shining Stars represent the top Pasadena Memorial High School students.*

*The information and photos were submitted by Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running the Shining Stars from Dobie, Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical and South Houston high schools.*



## Acosta thankful for Crews' motivation

Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School's Shining Star Miguel Acosta (below, left) is shown with distinguished educator Casey Crews who teaches ninth- and 11th-grade AP biology and anatomy/physiology.

Commenting on his teacher, Acosta said, "During my years of school, I have never had a teacher that had significantly gotten involved with my studies and future, unlike Mr. Crews. He'd always help me not only in school but outside from science club to advising on decisions pertaining to my future. His help allowed me to figure out some important decisions I have taken, and for that, 'thank you.'"

Acosta has shown leadership as treasure for both National Honor Society and HOSA. Extracurricular activities for Acosta include National Honor Society, HOSA, science club, Skills and chess club.

Community service activities for Acosta included book fair, Christmas festival and National Honor Society.

"After high school, I plan on attending UH for some time and apply for transfer to Rice University, start my own research and study on certain conditions/diseases, start my own research and development company," Acosta said.

*The South Belt Shining Stars will be presented in a series of students being honored along with their favorite mentor.*

*The Shining Stars represent the top Dr. Kirk Lewis Career & Technical High School students.*

*The information and photos were submitted by Pasadena Independent School District. The Leader is also running the Shining Stars from Dobie, Pasadena Memorial and South Houston high schools.*



## Bay Area Genealogical set July 30

The Bay Area Genealogical society general meeting will be held Friday, July 30, at 7 p.m. with speaker Cyndi Ingles.

Ingles is the creator and innovator behind the award-winning and globally recognized CyndisList.com, a free categorized list of more than 337,000 links for genealogical research.

Ingles has an expertise in using technology for genealogy.

Additionally, her many active years in genealogy have also resulted in a specialty for research in the United States with particular focus on homesteaders, the Civil War, the Plains States, the Midwest, the Old Northwest and beyond.

Ingles' favorite topics bring together traditional methodology with organization, computers, software and the internet.

This will be an online webinar and preregistration is required. Details will be posted on the Bay Area Genealogical Society website.

One can check out the topics and links to access meetings on BAGS website at [www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org). For more information, call Kim at 281-992-2636 or email [newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org](mailto:newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org).

## San Jac Theatre creating partnerships



Students in the San Jac South Campus Theatre program performed "Wilderness" at the Stages Theatre in Houston. Shown, left to right, are Gwyneth Templonuevo, Vana Salois, Stephanie Garza and Carlos Cantu. Photo by Frank Vela, San Jacinto College.



An independent project was produced by students in the San Jac South Theatre program. Shown, left to right, are Ryan Fielder, Camille Morrow, Gwyneth Templonuevo and Allison Giles. Photo by Carlos Cantu

## San Jac Theatre overcomes adversity, creates partnership

During the spring 2021 semester, the San Jacinto College South Campus Theatre program produced two major shows and made long-lasting industry partnerships.

Seth Bockley and Anne Hamburger's first production "Wilderness" features adolescents at the brink of emotional chaos in a wilderness therapy program. The theme of the semester was "adaptation," according to play director Laura Grayson.

"We had so many changes from the very beginning,"

said Grayson, adjunct theatre and film faculty member. "We couldn't have a live audience due to COVID-19 restrictions and we weren't sure how we were going to continue."

Enter Stages Theatre, Houston's sixth largest non-profit performing arts center. Stages not only allowed students to rehearse and perform in its arena theatre but also introduced them to new technology.

"The technology (at Stages) made it possible to create rain on stage," Grayson said.

"Our students experienced things that they wouldn't have at our own spaces."

During rehearsals, the "Wilderness" cast and crew got tested weekly for COVID-19 to ensure they were as safe as possible. Student Vana Salois became the group's COVID-19 code enforcer.

"We hadn't done anything like that before, so I took notes from the community and researched what Broadway and other theatres were doing to stay in compliance,"

Salois said. "We scaled down their operations for our smaller team. We even held auditions virtually to keep the restrictions up to code."

With a healthy and safe cast and crew, the next step was filming the play to share with an audience.

"I wanted the production to still feel like a play and not a film," said Frank Vela, theatre and film professor, whose Stages connections had led to the partnership. "I didn't want heavy editing, but I wanted it to look nice."

Anthony Zavala, a student interested in film, headed the video production. The team used two cameras and alternated the shots.

Besides this production, Vela and his students hosted three "San Jac Talks." These open discussions with the director, cast, crew, and San Jac counselors worked through difficult topics in Wilderness. The team discussed transitioning, being a good ally, establishing healthy boundaries and managing anxiety and depression.

"We felt these discussions would help familiarize students with the topics if they hadn't dealt with them before and helped us identify with our characters more deeply," said Gwyneth Templonuevo, theatre student.

Ending the semester, students produced a student independent project - fully creating, designing, operating and performing a show.

Also hosted at Stages, their play, Andrew Bovell's "Things I Know to Be True," focuses on the importance of family and unexpectedness of life.

"I originally saw this play performed during a UIL One Act Play competition," said Drew Ford, the theatre student who directed the production. "I fell in love with

the piece. The characters and dynamics between them were so authentic. It was a great experience, and it solidified my goal to be a director in the future."

Along with the San Jac team, University of Houston students Laur Hale and Claudia Pariselli joined the production and helped with set design.

"It was invaluable to have [their] set design experience," said Vela. "It gave me free time to focus on the technical aspects of the production."

Thanks to the Stages relationship, Ford, Salois, Templonuevo, and Zavala secured five-week internships with the theatre company. They worked on two different shows: the "HITS" project with Miller Outdoor Theatre and "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill."

"We had our hands on every part of the production," said Ford. "The staff were incredibly accommodating and welcomed us to ask questions."

Looking forward to the fall semester, Vela has plans to produce Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles."

"We really want to take our time and produce something great," said Vela. "COVID-19 has taught us to take a breath and slow down. Typically, in theatre, you have six weeks to produce a show. I want to really dig in on this one."

Audiences can look forward to "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in fall 2021 as well as a guest production of Murray Horwitz's "Ain't Misbehavin'" featuring the Phillip Hall Singers. For more information on the San Jacinto College South Campus Theatre program, visit [www.sanjac.edu/theatre-south](http://www.sanjac.edu/theatre-south).

# Remember When

**45 years ago (1976)**  
The Southeast Volunteer Fire Department officially moved into its new quarters, Station #1, located in Seardsdale.

The San Jacinto College board of regents approved proposed plans for the building of a campus on their new college site located near Beamer and Choate Road.

**40 years ago (1981)**  
Harris County Sheriff's deputies and Houston police confiscated \$70,000 in stolen merchandise, including a truck and boat. Stolen property included televisions, stereos, clothing and video equipment.

San Jacinto College regents met in an open hearing and voted to raise the district's tax rate by at least 3 percent.

**35 years ago (1986)**  
A tank trailer containing residual amounts of anhydrous ammonia sank into the pavement of a vacant Safeway store at Hughes Road and Beltway 8 feeder and released traces of gases into the atmosphere.

Three 10th-grade Dobie students, who were caught trying to steal a car, were charged with burglary of a motor vehicle, were sent to Galveston Juvenile Detention Center for a week, went before a judge and were released into parental custody. The juveniles were connected with at least seven automobile burglaries in the Pearland area.

**30 years ago (1991)**  
Sageglen parents of Weber students were able to have their students transferred by placing a phone call.

Mercantile Trust Company and the Brio Task Force were being sued by the Sagemont-Beverly Hills Lit-

tle League and Girls Softball Association for a loss of the use of the United Sports Association fields and the time in building the ballpark.

**25 years ago (1996)**  
Ayrshire and Griggs corporations reportedly sold a portion of their 135 acres at the beltway-tollway and Gulf Freeway to AMC.

David Graham and Michael Phillips, both 11, were given \$200 each after finding and turning in a bag containing \$1,900, passports and credit cards belonging to an Australian tourist who had left it at the Sageglen pool.

**20 years ago (2001)**

SBHLL 14-year-old All-Stars reached the finals in Waco before falling to Gregory-Portland 4-3.

The City of Houston hosted a buy-out meeting for residents in the 100-year flood plain.

**15 years ago (2006)**  
A police chase which lasted nearly two hours passed through the South Belt area four times. The chase ended when suspect Kenneth Wayne Pool crashed into a ditch between Fairmont and Spencer in Pasadena.

PISD insurance premiums skyrocketed, reportedly due to the high cost of property

damage in the 2005 hurricane season.

South Belt TAKS scores were above both district and state averages. PISD overall was still below the state average.

**10 years ago (2011)**  
Following the passing of the state budget, the Pasadena Independent School District rehired roughly 50 teachers who were originally laid off due to funding concerns. Working with projected cuts of \$21 million per year over the next two years, the school district had initially laid off 340 employees, including 180 instructors. For

the South Belt community, this meant the loss of 16 area teachers. Of these 16, three were rehired throughout the school district.

After serving seven distinguished years as principal at Frazier Elementary, Rhonda Parmer stepped down to further pursue her career goals. Under Parmer's leadership, Frazier was rated "Exemplary" by the Texas Education Agency for the previous five consecutive years. In 2010, Parmer was named PISD's Region 4 Principal of the Year and the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association's National

Distinguished Principal.

A fatal traffic accident occurred during the early morning hours leaving one dead and another hospitalized when a silver Chevrolet Trailblazer crashed in the 11300 block of the Gulf Freeway northbound feeder road at Hartsook, south of Edgebrook. The driver, Adam Joseph Garcia, 30, of Pasadena, was pronounced dead at the scene, while a female passenger, 33, was transported by Life Flight to Memorial Hermann Hospital in stable condition. Witnesses at the scene reported seeing the victim driving err-

ratically. He was observed to be speeding, tailgating other drivers and weaving through traffic. The driver lost control of the vehicle, slid onto a sidewalk and struck a utility pole.

**5 years ago (2016)**  
Construction began on the Harris County project to widen Beltway 8 from two to four lanes in each direction from Beamer to Highway 288. The project will be divided into two phases: from Beamer to Wayside and from Wayside to Highway 288. The contract for the first phase of construction was for \$96 million, while the contract for the second phase was \$77 million. The project is in addition to a similar endeavor that will widen the beltway to four lanes east of the Gulf Freeway to Highway 225. That project also calls for replacing the existing Beltway 8 Ship Channel toll bridge with a new four-lane structure.

**1 year ago (2020)**  
Longtime South Belt resident Chuck Tylka retired as chief of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department after serving 45+ years with the organization, 12 as chief. Tylka was replaced with longtime SVFD member David Cino.

While not an original member of the Southeast Volunteer Fire Department, Tylka ranked third in seniority at the time of his retirement, behind only founding members Ed Baker and Jerry Terrell. An active member of the South Belt community, Tylka also serves on the boards of the Clear Brook City MUD and Sageglen HOA. Tylka will also continue his work with the annual South Belt Spectacular Cook-off, of which he is a primary organizer.



**SCHOOL DAZE**  
The following staff of the Pasadena Independent School District celebrate birthdays July 29 through Aug. 4.

**Atkinson Elementary**  
Sing a happy birthday song to **Stacy Fontenot** Aug. 1.

**Burnett Elementary**  
Blow out the birthday candles for **Luis Arroyo** July 31. Remember to wish **Maria Romero** a happy birthday Aug. 2.

**Genoa Elementary**  
Join in a fun birthday celebration Aug. 4 for **Emily Delano**.

**Meador Elementary**  
The day for balloons and a birthday cake for **Karen Barton** and **Tanya Weaver** is Aug. 3.

**Moore Elementary**  
**Eduardo Ledezma** celebrates a birthday Aug. 1.

**South Belt Elementary**  
**Jacquelyn Anderson** is wished a happy birthday Aug. 5.

**Stuchbery Elementary**  
**Gorette Rerri** enjoys a birthday July 30. The day for a celebration for **Jessica Garcia-**

**Ramos** is Aug. 2.  
**Melillo Middle School**  
Marking a special birthday Aug. 1 is **Stephanie Ali**. The day to send a birthday greeting to **Norberta Mercado** is Aug. 2. **Melissa Torres** celebrates a birthday Aug. 4.

**Beverly Hills Intermediate**  
Sing a happy birthday song Aug. 2 to **Shasta Williams**. The day for birthday fun for **Arnold Agrella** is Aug. 3.

**Thompson Intermediate**  
On July 31, happy birthday wishes are sent to **Wayne Sanders**. Remember to wish **Patricia Tabarez** a happy birthday Aug. 1. Send a birthday greeting Aug. 2 to **Meliza Evanson**. The day to sing a happy birthday song to **Stefanie Tang** is Aug. 3.

**Dobie High**  
Birthday greetings are sent to **Sherrie Kent** Aug. 3. **Shelby Collier** marks a birthday Aug. 4.

**FRIENDS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**  
The *South Belt-Ellington Leader* sends birthday wishes to friends. For those wanting a birthday mentioned in this section, email [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com) with "OTBF: Friends Celebrate Birthdays" in the subject

line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

Thursday, July 29: **Codie Salyer, Linda Brisbay, Gina Trevino, Danielle Taverner, Albert Perez** and **Tiffany Barras**, Friday, July 30: **Donald Rogers, Anne Hyma, Danielle Mendoza, Christine Elliott** and **Randy Kelley**; Saturday, July 31: **Robert Gentry, David Freeman, Felix Garcia, Jim Waltz** and **Ashley Glover**; Sunday, Aug. 1: **Gabriel Diaz, Andrew Burks, Denny Wranich Sr., Ryan Hanzelka, Jo Lyday** and **Scott Bishop**; Monday, Aug. 2: **Mayra Elizabeth, Patricia Lynn Krivik, Ana Acosta, Juanita Herrera, Terry Barclay** and **Donna Northrup**; Tuesday, Aug. 3: **Angela James-Farrar, Joaquin Jimenez, Jennifer Pena-Zuniga** and **Gina Valdez**; and Wednesday, Aug. 4: **Beth Fawcett, Monica Salazar, Donna Taylor, Kristen Sorenson, Diana Polus, Kevin Baker, Michele Cutrer** and **Robin Wach**.

**LEADER WANTS YOU IN THE NEWS**  
Email birthday, anniversary, vacation, congratulations, etc., to [mynews@southbeltleader.com](mailto:mynews@southbeltleader.com) with OTBF in the subject line by Friday noon for the next week's publication.

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# SPORTS NEWS & NOTES

## Lady Longhorns prepare for preseason as volleyball opens Aug. 10

The Dobie volleyball program will join the rest of the state in preseason preparation Aug. 2 as the 2021 regular season will officially be served up the second week of August.

The Lady Longhorns, who were second in the District 22-6A standings at 10-2 behind unbeaten Deer Park and went 15-10 overall during the pandemic-shortened 2020

season, have every intention of challenging for the league title this time around.

And with reigning District 22-6A Middle Blocker of the Year KeKe Robinson, 22-6A Setter of the Year Natalie Onozie and others returning, the Lady Longhorns have plenty to be excited about.

Robinson, who had 85 blocks and 132 kills as a junior en route to the 22-6A award, will have a huge role up top, with sophomore Ariana Garza, a second team all-district pick, also due a larger contribution following an 80-plus kills freshman season.

Senior Maya Scott, a 22-6A second team honoree as a junior, had 86 kills as a junior in 2020, and

will be counted on heavily again, and the Lady Longhorns return the league's top setter in Onozie, who

contributes all over the court.

In short, the Lady Longhorns are counting

on their veteran leadership in 2021.

Dobie's preseason scrimmages include a trip

to Barbers Hill Aug. 6, and the Lady Longhorns will then host the trio of Angleton, La Porte and Little Cypress-Mauriceville Aug. 7.

An Aug. 9 home scrim-

mage against Galveston Ball and Pasadena ends an ultra-quick preseason.

The Lady Longhorns will be at Phillips Field House Aug. 10 to open the regular season against

Baytown Sterling, with the varsity match coming at 6 p.m. Opening week concludes with an Aug. 17 trip to Stafford.

See Dobie's full 2021 schedule on Page 6.

### Dobie Volleyball Key Dates

**Aug. 2:** Preseason workouts begin.

**Aug. 6:** Dobie at Barbers Hill tri-scrimmage. Klein Oak included, TBA.

**Aug. 7:** Dobie hosts scrimmage, 8 a.m. Angleton, La Porte and Little Cypress-Mauriceville included.

**Aug. 9:** Dobie hosts tri-scrimmage, 9 a.m. Galveston Ball and Pasadena included.

**Aug. 10:** Dobie hosts Baytown Sterling, Phillips Field House, 2021 opener. Fr: 4 p.m.; JV: 5 p.m.; Var: 6 p.m.

At right, Dobie senior Natalie Onozie (6) has already registered nearly 900 career assists with the Lady Longhorns. For 2021, the reigning District 22-6A Setter of the Year will again carry a big load while triggering the Dobie offense. Preseason workouts begin Aug. 2, and Dobie hosts Baytown Sterling Aug. 10 at Phillips Field House to begin the 2021 regular season.

Photo by Donna Alsdorf



## SBYSC continues sign-up

The South Belt Youth Soccer Club is continuing online registration for the fall 2021 season.

Families may visit the league website at [www.southbeltsoccer.org](http://www.southbeltsoccer.org) to take advantage of this opportunity.

Only credit or debit cards will be accepted as forms of

payment.

All registered players will receive a uniform, which includes jersey, shorts and socks. Parents will be required to provide shin guards, a ball and cleats.

The discounted fees are \$100 per under-4 through under-8 players, \$120 per

under-9 and under-10 players, \$140 per under-11 and under-12 players and \$160 per under-13 through under-19 players.

Those signing up online from July 1 to July 31 will see a \$20 fee increase, which jumps to a \$40 increase for those registering Aug. 1 through Oct. 31.

### Online sign up

## SBGSA offers fall league spots

The South Belt Girls Softball Association continues to host online registration opportunities for the fall season at just \$75 per child.

The fall season presents a noncompetitive atmosphere in which scores are not kept and instead the focus is on skill development and team building.

During the fall season, the schedule will feature convenient Saturday games only.

Players ages 4 to 16 as of Aug. 1, 2021 are eligible to compete, and there are no residency restrictions.

SBGSA officials are also seeking adults to fill coaching openings during the fall season.

The league's online registration is available at [www.southbeltssoftball.com](http://www.southbeltssoftball.com).

For additional information about the league or to look into coaching opportunities, call SBGSA player agent Adriana Estrada at 832-891-3579.

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## JFD team tennis preps for Aug. 2-5 start

By John Bechtle Sports Editor

In yet another indication of a return to normalcy during these pandemic times, the Dobie tennis program has started preseason workouts at the Longhorn courts on the main campus as the varsity team eyes a trip to Dallas to open the 2021 fall team tennis season.

Veteran Dobie head coach Manuel Moreno Jr. said many players took part in voluntary workouts leading up to the official preseason, giving the group a bit of a head start as all fall athletic programs, tennis included, hope 2021 brings that much needed normalcy.

"To the credit of the kids, they are always ex-

cited to get out on the court and be part of a team and to really just be around each other," Moreno said.

"For a lot of these kids, their tennis family is like a second family to them, and they like being on the

courts."

As Moreno has set the girls' singles ladder, senior and team captain Megan Rodriguez will be at No. 1 with seniors Tracy Tran and Violet Tran at Nos. 2 and 3, respectively.

Ashley Huynh, also a team captain as a junior, will begin the season at No. 4, with junior Tiffany Tran fifth and Natalie Vo, also a junior, at No. 6.

Junior Hailey Maldonado and Leena Phan, a sopho-

more, will also challenge early on for top-six spots.

Sophomores Kayla Tran and Hailey Vu join seniors Kathleen Nguyen and Kim Nguyen along with sophomores Amalia Reyes and Leslie Figueroa as players looking to move

Continued on Page 6



At right, Dobie head tennis coach Manuel Moreno Jr. (left) has set the fall team tennis singles ladders with senior Megan Rodriguez atop the Lady Longhorns' list. Dobie opens the regular season Aug. 2-5 with a trip to Dallas.

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## JO track qualifiers headed to Humble

Saturday, Aug. 7, could shape up to be a very busy one for sprinter Camryn Dickson as she and some of her H-Town Hurricane teammates race for medals at the Amateur Athletic Union's Junior Olympic Games at Turner Stadium in Humble.

Dickson could very well be part of the 200 young women's age 17-18 200-meter final Aug. 6 at 10:45 a.m.

The pace then quickens Aug. 7 as the 4x100 final is set for 12:15 p.m., followed by the 100 at 2:15 p.m. The 4x400 final is at 3:15 p.m.

Lutheran South Academy senior-to-be Ayana Smith has also qualified for the national event as she was the regional champion at 18 feet, 7 inches in the long jump.

The Pearland Speed member has also qualified in the 100 event, where she will go for a medal.

in the upper 90s for quite some time, it's going to be hot in Humble.

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# JFD netters look ahead to openers

**Continued from Page 6** up the rankings while providing depth on the girls' side of things.

As for the three girls' doubles alignments, Moreno is set to pair Rodriguez with Huynh at No. 1, with Violet Tran and Tracy Tran at No. 2. The No. 3 girls' team as of opening day figures to be Vo and Tiffany Tran.

There are familiar faces at the top of the boys' singles ladder with a pair of seniors and team captains in Brian Nguyen and Lael Martinez at Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, with junior William Ho third. From there, Moreno eyes sophomore Ryan Le and juniors Dominic Ortiz and Tang Tran at Nos. 4-6, with senior Kenny Duong seventh and junior Aaron Charles eighth.

The singles ladder on the boys' side further includes senior Taylor Ha and sophomore Eric Huynh.

Brian Nguyen and Martinez will join talents in the top boys' doubles spot, with Ho and Le at No. 2 and Tran with Ortiz at No. 3.

Moreno is excited to take the Longhorns on a team-building trip to Dallas to begin the season Aug. 2-4.

The schedule has the Longhorns going against Ennis on Aug. 2 before playing DeSoto at 9 a.m. and Cedar Hill at 3:30 p.m. on Aug. 3 at the Kiest Tennis Center in Dallas. On Aug. 4, Dobie will help Sherman christen its new courts as the two teams meet at 10 a.m.

Dobie will return to Houston to host Dawson, and the 2021 fall team tennis season will be off and running. Moreno said it will be welcomed after what 2020 was.

"Being able to get a full season in and a proper pre-season is something everybody is looking forward to," Moreno said.

## SJC's Auer goes to Rays; Aug. 1 deadline

At right, San Jacinto College's Mason Auer was selected by the Tampa Bay Rays in the fifth round of the 2021 MLB First-Year Player Draft and is deciding whether to sign by the Aug. 1 deadline or to honor his commitment to play at the University of Oregon in 2022. In 2021, Auer led the Gators in numerous offensive categories while helping the team to a fourth-place finish at the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I JUCO World Series in Grand Junction, Colo. Four other current or former players with ties to San Jacinto College were also drafted, including Cam Williams of the University of Texas; Oregon State's Bryant Salgado; Texas Tech's Brandon Birdsell; and Hunter Hollan, 10-3 as a pitcher with the Gators in 2021.



## MLB teams select San Jacinto College players

Two players from the 2021 roster and three former San Jacinto College baseball players were selected in the Major League Baseball Draft earlier this month.

Coming off a season in which San Jac finished 51-15 overall and advanced to the semifinals of the Alpine Bank Junior College World Series, five student-athletes received word that they were drafted by major league organizations.

Mason Auer, a freshman outfielder and right-handed pitcher, was San Jac's highest selected player.

The Tampa Bay Rays selected the Missouri

(Kickapoo High School) native in the fifth round. He threw nine innings with 13 strikeouts and two saves on the mound. He owned an ERA of 3 while doing the majority of his damage at the plate.

The Milwaukee Brewers selected left hander Hunter Hollan, a freshman from Longview, Texas (Spring Hill High School).

Hollan, selected in the 15th round, went 10-3 on the hill with a 3.08 ERA, 104 strikeouts and 17 walks in 73 innings of work. He also tossed a no-hitter.

Former Gator Brandon Birdsell from the 2019 SJC squad, was picked in

the 11th round by the Minnesota Twins.

The right-hander, now a student at Texas Tech University, saw a shortened season this year due to a torn rotator cuff that he suffered in April.

In his eight appearances for the Red Raiders, he went 4-1 with a 3.06 ERA to go along with 36 strikeouts.

Birdsell has announced via his Twitter account that he will return to Texas Tech for the 2022 season.

Bryant Salgado, who pitched at San Jac in 2019 and 2020, heard his name called in the 14th round of the draft, with the Houston Astros picking up the Oregon State student-ath-

lete. In his first year with the Beavers, he threw for 26.2 total innings, and put up a 1.01 ERA and a 1.125 WHIP.

The Kansas City Royals selected alum Cam Williams in the 19th round.

This is Williams' second time being selected in the draft. He was a 39th round selection by the Seattle Mariners in the 2016 draft coming out of Gaither High School in Odessa, Fla.

The infielder will continue his family legacy of baseball excellence. Williams' father, Reggie Williams, was a 25th round pick by the San Francisco Giants before playing as an outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers and Anaheim Angels during his four seasons in the major leagues.

### Dobie Boys' Singles

- 1) Brian Nguyen, Sr. (C)
- 2) Lael Martinez, Sr. (C)
- 3) William Ho, Jr.
- 4) Ryan Le, Soph.
- 5) Dominic Ortiz, Jr.
- 6) Thang Tran, Jr.
- 7) Andrew Huynh, Sr.
- 8) Aaron Charles, Jr.
- 9) Eric Huynh, Soph.
- 10) Taylor Ha, Sr.
- 11) Kenny Duong, Sr.

### Dobie Girls' Singles

1. Megan Rodriguez, Sr. (C)
2. Tracy Tran, Sr.
3. Violet Tran, Sr.
4. Ashley Huynh, Jr. (C)
5. Tiffany Tran, Jr.
6. Natalie Vo, Jr.
7. Hailey Maldonado, Jr.
- 8) Diana Dang, Jr.
- 9) Leena Pham, Soph.
- 10) Kayla Tran, Soph.
- 11) Leslie Figueroa, Soph.
- 12) Hallie Vu, Soph.
- 13) Vanessa Tran, Sr.
- 14) Amalia Reyes, Soph.
- 15) Kathleen Nguyen, Sr.
- 16) Kim Nguyen, Sr.
- 17) Trang Vu, Soph.

## Dobie Longhorns 2021 Varsity Team Tennis Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Aug. 2-5	at DeSoto, etc. (Dallas)	TBA
Aug. 6	Pearland Dawson	3:30 p.m.
Aug. 7	Dobie exes matches	9 a.m.
Aug. 10	at Baytown Sterling	1 p.m.
Aug. 11	Katy	3 p.m.
Aug. 12	Dickinson	3 p.m.
Aug. 13	at Shadow Creek	9 a.m.
Aug. 13	at Friendswood	5 p.m.
Aug. 17	Clear Brook	2:30 p.m.
Aug. 20	Pearland	3 p.m.
Aug. 24	Texas City	3:30 p.m.
Aug. 27	Clear Springs	2:30 p.m.
Aug. 31	Willis	3 p.m.
Sept. 3	La Porte	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 7	*Channelview	3 p.m.
Sept. 10-11	at Remembering Ike tourn.	TBA
Sept. 14	MacArthur	2 p.m.
Sept. 17	*at Pasadena	3 p.m.
Sept. 18	at Kingwood	9 a.m.
Sept. 21	*Deer Park	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 24	at Cinco Ranch	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 25	Clear Creek	9 a.m.
Sept. 28	*at Memorial	3 p.m.
Oct. 1	*Rayburn	3 p.m.
Oct. 5	*at South Houston	3 p.m.
Oct. 8	at George Ranch	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	Houston Lamar	9 a.m.
*District 22-6A matches		



Darius Hypolite enjoyed a standout career at Dobie before graduating in 2016 and then had a four-year career at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Now he's set to begin his coaching career at Pasadena Memorial as part of varsity football head coach Jamie Crocker's staff. Hypolite will work under the guidance of Mavs' defensive coordinator Bobby Beynaerts, also a Dobie graduate.

## Hypolite joins Memorial staff

It's called a coaching circle for a reason.

Two former Dobie High School football players have joined forces at Pasadena Memorial High School on the football staff as the Mavericks begin preparation for the 2021 campaign with pre-season workouts starting Aug. 9.

Darius Hypolite, a Dobie Class of 2016 graduate, is one of the newest members of varsity football head coach Jamie Crocker's staff at Memorial, with an assist from defensive coordinator Bobby Beynaerts, who is also a Dobie graduate.

Beynaerts was also pre-

viously an assistant coach at Dobie.

"I had played for coach Beynaerts at Dobie, and I came to a game last November when I started the process of looking for a coaching spot," Hypolite said.

"It's a natural fit really. I understand his style as a coordinator, and we can work together to put our guys in the best position to be successful."

"It's really about giving back now and trying to help some of these guys find opportunities that we had."

After graduating from Dobie, Hypolite enjoyed a four-year collegiate ca-

reer at Austin College in Sherman, Texas, and had two tackles for loss and an interception as a senior in 2019.

He graduated with a degree in psychology and has since achieved a master's in education. Though he was just days into his new role at Memorial, Hypolite was all ears.

"I'm just trying to soak up everything I can and learn as we go," Hypolite said.

"I'm very excited to be here and have this chance. Once we get out on the field with the guys, I'm sure things will come natural. I appreciate the opportunity."

## Clear Creek ISD 2021 Varsity Football Schedule Set

Clear Brook	Clear Creek	Clear Falls	Clear Lake	Clear Springs
Thurs., Aug. 26	Sat., Aug. 28	Fri., Aug. 27	Fri., Aug. 27	Fri., Aug. 27
Texas City, 6 p.m.	at Oak Ridge, 6 p.m.	Dawson, 7 p.m.	Houston Sterling, 7 p.m.	at Katy, 7 p.m.
Challenger Stadium	Woodforest Stadium	Veterans Stadium	Challenger Stadium	Legacy Stadium
Fri. Sept. 3	Thurs., Sept. 2	Sat., Sept. 4	Fri., Sept. 3	Fri., Sept. 3
Friendswood, 7 p.m.	Deer Park, 6 p.m.	at Pas. Memorial, 6 p.m.	at La Porte, 7 p.m.	Tompkins, 7 p.m.
Veterans Stadium	Veterans Stadium	Veterans Stadium	Bulldog Stadium	Challenger Stadium
Fri., Sept. 10	Fri., Sept. 10	Fri., Sept. 10	Fri., Sept. 10	Fri., Sept. 10
at La Porte, 7 p.m.	at Channelview, 7 p.m.	Deer Park, 7 p.m.	at Texas City, 7 p.m.	at Elkins, 7 p.m.
Bulldog Stadium	Maddy Stadium	Challenger Stadium	Stingaree Stadium	Mercer Stadium
Fri., Sept. 17	Fri., Sept. 17	Fri., Sept. 17 (HC)	Fri., Sept. 17	Thurs., Sept. 23
at Fulshear, 7 p.m.	at Tompkins, 7 p.m.	Cinco Ranch, 7 p.m.	Channelview, 7 p.m.	Conroe, 7 p.m.
Traylor Stadium	Rhodes Stadium	Veterans Stadium	Challenger Stadium	Challenger Stadium
Fri., Sept. 24 (HC)	Fri., Sept. 24	Fri., Sept. 24	Fri., Sept. 24	Fri., Sept. 30
*Clear Lake, 7 p.m.	*at Brazoswood, 7 p.m.	Dickinson, 7 p.m.	*at Clear Brook, 7 p.m.	*at Clear Lake, 6 p.m.
Challenger Stadium	Hopper Stadium	Veterans Stadium	Challenger Stadium	Challenger Stadium
Fri., Oct. 1	Fri., Oct. 1 (HC)	Fri., Oct. 1	Thurs., Sept. 30,	Fri., Oct. 8 (HC)
*at Clear Falls, 7 p.m.	*Dickinson, 7 p.m.	*Clear Brook, 7 p.m.	*Clear Springs, 6 p.m.	*Clear Falls, 7 p.m.
Challenger Stadium	Veterans Stadium	Challenger Stadium	Turner Stadium	Challenger Stadium
Fri., Oct. 8	Thurs. Oct. 8	Fri., Oct. 8	Thurs., Oct. 15	Fri., Oct. 15
*Clear Creek, 7 p.m.	*at Clear Brook, 7 p.m.	*at Clear Springs, 7 p.m.	*at Clear Falls, 7 p.m.	*at Clear Creek, 7 p.m.
Veterans Stadium	Veterans Stadium	Challenger Stadium	Veterans Stadium	Veterans Stadium
Fri., Oct. 15	Fri., Oct. 15	Fri., Oct. 15	Fri., Oct. 22 (HC)	Thurs., Oct. 21
*Brazoswood, 7 p.m.	*Clear Springs, 7 p.m.	*Clear Lake, 7 p.m.	*Clear Creek, 7 p.m.	*Brazoswood, 6 p.m.
Hopper Stadium	Veterans Stadium	Challenger Stadium	Challenger Stadium	Challenger Stadium
Fri., Oct. 29,	Fri., Oct. 22	Fri., Oct. 29	Fri., Oct. 29	Fri., Oct. 29
*Dickinson, 7 p.m.	*at Clear Lake, 7 p.m.	*at Clear Creek, 7 p.m.	*at Brazoswood, 7 p.m.	*at Dickinson, 7 p.m.
Veterans Stadium	Spring Stadium	Challenger Stadium	Veterans Stadium	Vitanza Stadium
Fri., Nov. 5	Fri., Oct. 29	Thurs., Nov. 4	Fri., Nov. 5	Fri., Nov. 5
*Clear Springs	*Clear Falls, 7 p.m.	*Brazoswood, 7 p.m.	*Dickinson, 7 p.m.	*Clear Brook, 7 p.m.
Challenger Stadium	Challenger Stadium	Challenger Stadium	Veterans Stadium	Challenger Stadium
*24-6A games	*24-6A games	*24-6A games	*24-6A games	*24-6A games
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## CALENDAR

Verify meetings prior to attending. For Alcoholics Anonymous, visit <https://aaohouston.org/meetings/>; for Narcotics Anonymous, visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com); for Al-Anon, visit [www.houstonalanon.org](http://www.houstonalanon.org).  
NOTE: Clear Lake Bridge Club - now open. Visit <https://clearlakebridgeclub.org/> or email [jpochners@aol.com](mailto:jpochners@aol.com) for details.

**THURSDAY, JULY 29**  
7 a.m.  
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill," Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m., and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, in Cornell Conference room. Call 713-686-6300 (247) or visit <https://aaohouston.org/meetings/>.  
7:30 a.m.  
Rotary Club of Pearland - Meets Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. either at Pearland Chamber of Commerce, 6117 Broadway St., Pearland, or online on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81372891968>. Meeting ID: 813 7289 1968. Details are on the Pearland Chamber of Commerce website under the calendar tab.  
Noon  
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland, or online at <https://aaohouston.org/meetings/imperfect-nooners>. Call 713-686-6300.  
7 p.m.  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Women's Group, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church. Call 713-661-4200 or visit <https://nastuff.com/>.

**FRIDAY, JULY 30**  
7 a.m.  
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
Noon  
Hometown Heroes - Ballroom dances Mondays and Wednesdays, 2 - 3:30 p.m. and Fridays, noon - 1:30 p.m. These are not dance lessons but casual dances. Call 281-554-1180 for details.  
7 p.m.  
Bay Area Genealogical Society - Preregister online required for virtual meeting with speaker Cyndi Ingle, creator of the award-winning CyndisList.com, (list of 337,000+ links for research.) Access meetings at [www.TxBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TxBayAreaGen.org). Call Kim at 281-992-2636 or email newsletter@TxBayAreaGen.org.  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group

of NA, open meeting, 2930 E. Broadway (FM 518), Pearland, First Presbyterian Church (youth building). For details, call 713-661-4200 or visit [www.hascona.com](http://www.hascona.com) or <https://nastuff.com/>.  
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - Services are live and Zoom online. For details on the 7 p.m. Friday night or the 9:30 a.m. Saturday service, visit <https://www.shaarhashalom.org>.  
8 p.m.  
Serenity Now Al-Anon Group - meets at CrossRoads UMC Fridays, 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. Family members and friends of problem drinkers/addicts share, learn Al-Anon principles and discover choices available. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 8 p.m., 10030 Scarsdale Blvd. For details, call 281-484-9243.  
**SATURDAY, JULY 31**  
7:30 a.m.  
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
9:30 a.m.  
Congregation Shaar Hashalom - See Friday's notice.  
11 a.m.  
Al-Anon Meeting (Women Only, English) - For women affected by an addict. Saturdays, 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1062 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Cornell Conference room #111. Call 281-487-8787, drop in or visit <https://www.houstonalanon.org/> for details.  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 1**  
8 p.m.  
AA - at CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 2**  
10 a.m.  
Al-Anon Deer Park - Literature Study. In His Presence Fellowship Church, 1202 East P Street, Deer Park. Enter through back of church. Call 409-454-5720 for details or visit <https://www.houstonalanon.org/>.  
Noon  
AA - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday's notice.  
6 p.m.  
New Directions Singles - Age 55 and older meets for a potluck dinner with activities and/or guest speakers at Webster Presbyterian Church, 201 W. NASA Pkwy. For details, call Margarita at 832-715-9658.  
Scrabble Club #511 - Meets Monday at IHOP, 11222 Fuqua. Join in the fun and improve crossword skills. COVID-19 vaccination required. Call 281-488-2923 for details.  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Toastmasters - The Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters Club #05324194 has resumed meeting in person at the South Belt Chamber of Commerce, 10500 Scarsdale Blvd. For more information, contact Karen Nunn at 832-722-9061 or Carolyn Carmichael at 832-372-3565.  
7 p.m.  
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) - #0683 chapter meets at the Friendswood Methodist Church, 110 N Friendswood Dr. in the educational bldg., room 201. For information, call Lynette Ringrose at 832-858-4617.  
7 p.m.  
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - St. Luke's 12-Step Recovery, open meeting, education Bld., 11011 Hall Rd. Call Jesse at 832-725-8479 or Rita at 281-309-2801 for details.  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 3**  
7 a.m.  
AA - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
Noon  
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners. See Thursday noon notice.  
7 p.m.  
Bay Area Quilt Guild - Meets the first Tuesday, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, located at 10310 Scarsdale Blvd. Visit [www.FaceBook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild](http://www.FaceBook.com/BayAreaQuiltGuild) or call Carol at 713-253-2521 for details. Visitors may attend two meetings free.  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4**  
7 a.m.  
AA Meeting - "Breakfast With Bill." See Thursday's notice.  
Noon  
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - Imperfect Nooners Group, 3525 Broadway, Pearland. See Thursday's notice.  
7 p.m.  
NA - Vigilance Group. See Friday's notice.  
8 p.m.  
Alcoholics Anonymous - meeting at CrossRoads UMC. See Friday's notice.

## LEADER READERS

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**MISCELLANEOUS**  
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**HELP WANTED**  
9814 FONVILLE DR. Fri. & Sat., July 30 & 31, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Furniture, household items. All must go. 713-941-5501. 7-29

**PEST CONTROL TECHNICIAN**. Will train. Call 281-488-3362. 10-7

**LOST PET**  
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## Tuition for newborns program ends July 31

Texas families have through July 31 to enroll their newborns in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund and pay this academic year's rates for all or some future tuition and schoolwide required fees at Texas public colleges and universities, excluding medical and dental institutions. Newborns are children younger than one year of age at the time of enrollment.

"For parents of newborns, saving for college may not always be top of mind," Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said. "That's why we're reminding new parents to take advantage of the opportunity to lock in this year's rates before next year's rates go into effect on Sept. 1."

Under the Texas Tuition Promise Fund, the state's prepaid college tuition program, participants can purchase tuition units and lock in the costs of undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at Texas public colleges and universities based on today's prices.

For additional flexibility, the plan also can be used at Texas medical and dental institutions, private Texas colleges and univer-

sities, out-of-state colleges and universities and career schools or eligible apprenticeship programs, where tuition is not locked in and the benefits and payouts would be based on the Transfer Value.

Enrollment at 2020-2021 prices closed Feb. 28 for children one year of age and older.

The next annual enrollment period begins Sept. 1, with new contract prices based on Texas public college costs for the 2021-2022 school year.

Complete plan information, including the plan description and agreement, current sales prices, enrollment forms and more, is available at [TuitionPromise.org](http://TuitionPromise.org) or by calling 800-445-GRAD (4723), option 5.

The program's outreach team also offers free webinars to provide an overview of the plan and discuss the different tuition unit types and payment options, as well as provide information about Texas Match the Promise Foundation matching scholarship opportunities.

Visit the Texas Tuition Promise Fund website for information on registering for upcoming webinars.

## Dobie Colorguard celebrates some fun in the sun



Dobie Colorguard team had a little summer fun July 22, getting together and making tie-dye shirts followed by some fun with a water Olympics. Shown above, left to right, are (front row) Jaretsy Rodriguez, Anabelle Perez, Dhelaya Hernandez, Patience Hayes, Maricela Aguilar, Miranda Cano, Joslyn Mimieli, Eleezabeth Torres, Jayla Gonzalez, Celissa Steans, Serenity Lane, Ryleigh Rodriguez,

Cyan Huerta, Skylar Edokpa, Joelle Jagdeo, Delailah Ramos, Chris Cantu, (middle row) Jamiya Lacy, Mckenzie Smith, Heidi Sanchez, Natalie Quiroz, Jacqueline Martinez, Bridget Peralta, Emily Rodriguez, Dezire Lewis, (Back row) Deashia Williams, Josie Herrera, Mariah Elkins, Janaycia Mitchell and Emma Lopez.

Photo by Suzette Torres

## HPD launches program aimed at preventing road rage

Continued from Page 1 everywhere," said Satterwhite. "It's not just the freeways. It's some of our major roads in the city. We're going to be out there." Officers will be looking for drivers who are speeding, following other cars too closely, changing lanes without signaling, flashing obscene gestures and using the horn inappropriately.

"It's about the response," said Satterwhite. "It's about proactive enforcement, and it's about the investigation because just because they got away with it that day, doesn't mean they're going to get away with it, because we're gonna follow up on investigations, and we will file arrest warrants, and we will go pick people up."

In the initiative's first week, officers made 114 traffic stops, executed six arrests and issued 270 citations.

HPD officials said road rage calls have already dropped 20 percent since the initiative was launched.

HPD officials advise drivers to take the high road. "If you find yourself getting dragged into a potentially confrontational situation, it only takes one person to drive the other way and prevent something bad from

happening and potentially save a life," said HPD Commander Reece Hardy.

To avoid provoking other drivers, police recommend not following too closely, letting drivers pass, using turn signals, letting drivers merge and being considerate of others in a parking lot. Other recommendations include not making eye contact, not responding to aggression with aggression,

## Kendrick elected PISD board chair

Continued from Page 1 Denie have two children, both graduates of Sam Rayburn High School.

Kendrick is a deacon, Sunday school teacher and member of the finance committee of South Main Baptist Church.

In 2015, Pasadena ISD named a middle school in Kendrick's honor.

Kendrick assumes the new position at a time when the Pasadena ISD board is somewhat split between an old guard - longtime trustees Morgan, Sullivan and Kendrick (who have a combined 95 years of experience) - and a new guard - freshmen members Dávila, Fusilier and Phelan.

The May election was heated, with Dávila being particularly vocal against the veteran incumbents.

Kendrick hopes the board can move past this but acknowledged the road forward is a rocky one.

being tolerant and forgiving and avoiding offensive hand gestures.

Drivers should call 911 if they feel threatened.

"Don't get drawn into it," said Satterwhite. "Un-

derstand your surroundings, plan ahead, because a lot of times road rage can stem just from frustration from the traffic in and out. That is part of Houston traffic jams. We are going to see them."

school district into two separate camps - the north and the south.

"There is no north and south in PISD. We don't see north or south. We don't see color. We want what's best for all students," Kendrick said. "I hope we can forgive and forget because it's really all about the kids."

Kendrick is hopeful the eight board members can work together as a team but

## County reaches 5K COVID deaths

Continued from Page 1 again."

Hidalgo's hands are tied, however, when it comes to implementing a mask mandate, as Gov. Greg Abbott has issued an executive order preventing local municipalities from enacting such measures.

Abbott has additionally stressed he will not impose a new statewide mask man-

date. Nearly all recent COVID-19 deaths have been among the unvaccinated.

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, 99.5 percent of people who have died due to COVID-19 in Texas since February were unvaccinated.

DSHS statistics show that just 43 of the 8,787 people who have died in Texas over

that period were fully vaccinated.

The agency said nearly 75 percent of the 43 vaccinated people who died were fighting serious underlying conditions like diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer or chronic lung disease.

Additionally, it said 95 percent of the 43 vaccinated people who died were 60 or older.

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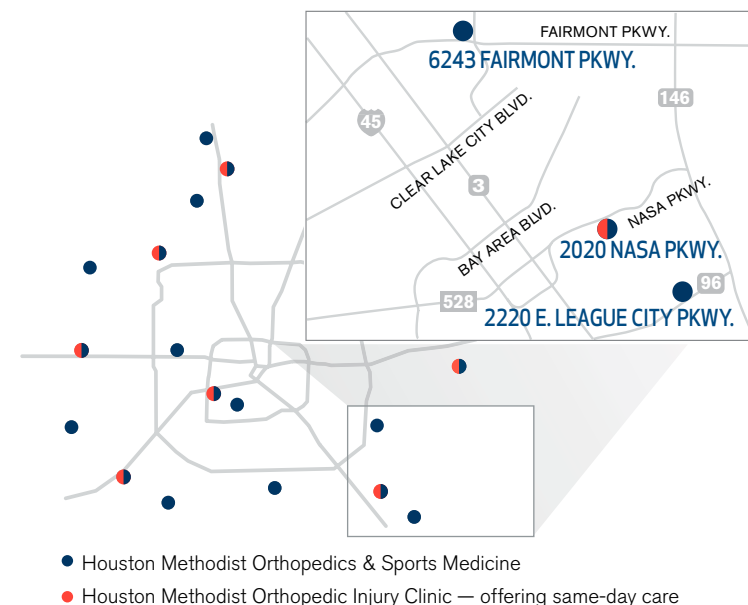


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